

REMARKS

Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112 for the reasons set forth therein. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 7 so that the word "one" correctly reads "once". In addition, claim 12 has been amended to recite where upon obtaining an authorization signature by said at least one individual, said original digital image can no longer be modified.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 12, as currently amended, meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Steensma for reasons set forth therein. In this regard, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to set forth at least one individual image in the image being displayed on the screen can be highlighted so as to indicate that an authorization signature on said photo release has been obtained. By doing this, the present invention allows the user to be able to identify through a visual representation of individuals who have and have not yet signed the release form. By simply viewing the image, the user can readily determine that a release has been obtained, from whom releases have been obtained, and from whom releases need to be obtained. There is no teaching or suggestions in Steensma of providing such a feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentably distinct over the cited art.

Applicants have added a new independent claim 13, which is the combination of claims 1 and 7. In this regard, the Examiner has rejected previous claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the basis of Steensma and official notice taken by the Examiner. In this regard, old claim 7 and new independent claim 13, specifically recite that once authorization signature is obtained, the photo release is no longer capable of being modified. The Examiner takes official notice that is well known in the art to use digital signatures to prevent modification of a digital data. Applicants are not aware of signature releases being provided that prevent further modification of an image. Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to provide prior art, which illustrates the providing of a digital signature when the signature is for a photo release that prevents further modification of the image. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8, which is dependent upon claim 7, wherein the digital watermark is used to prevent unnoticed modification. In this regard, the watermark in the present invention is not used to prevent modification, but to prevent unnoticed modification. Thus, if an image has been modified, the watermark will indicate that a modification to the original image has been made. Applicants further invite the Examiner to illustrate how

watermarking has been used to prevent unnoticed modification with regard to the images, wherein a release has been provided.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims in the present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 27,370

Frank Pincelli/jpc
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-722-3335
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.